

1); opening prayer of Rev. Henry N. Couden, D. D., chaplain of the House (p. 2); text of President Roosevelt's message (p. 23); text of Newland's resolution for national incorporation of railroads engaged in inter-State commerce (p. 103).

MISCELLANY

SOCIAL SONNETS.

V.

RUSSIA.

For The Public.

A Lie is not a Truth, and cannot last;
It may, perchance, persist a thousand
years,
While Craft holds away o'er superstitious
fears;
But day by day the thousand years go past
And dally is the Lie more manifest,
Until it stands revealed for what it is—
Not Ordinance of God, but fell Disease,
Whereat Humanity shall stand aghast.
'Tis a rank Lie, as all the world now sees,
That Heaven anointed one poor craven
thing,
With coward, pliant soul and trembling
knees,
To rule a hundred millions as their king
With will unfettered as the will of God;
The hour has struck; now shall that Lie
explode!

J. W. BENGOUGH.

TIMELY OBSERVATIONS.

For The Public.

Of all the wonderful virtues gold
standard votaries have claimed for it,
absolution from sin caps the climax.

Some of our millionaire philanthro-
pists seem to be laboring under a mis-
apprehension. St. Paul never even in-
timated that charity could cover a
multitude of crimes.

Who hath Woe? Who hath Sorrow?

The grafters' syndicate seem to have
cornered the visible supply, but those
who are short can soon raise a crop
by doing likewise.

"How hath the mighty fallen?"
Ask Depew.

Some pharisees, with a habit of
praying: "Thank God I am not as
other men," now wish they were.

Recent developments indicate that
the way of the transgressor still re-
mains tolerable hard.

The way church pillars have been
tumbling or late, suggests that Sam-
son must be regaining his strength.

Hereafter the self-made man should
postpone his boasting until after a
searchlight has been turned on his
job.

It looks as if critics of the gold

standard could now afford to leave it
alone in the hands of its friends.

Even a conundrum may outlive its
usefulness.

The query: "When a tadpole turns
to a frog, what becomes of its tail?"
no longer interests a generation that
is anxiously guessing what becomes of
the money it pays for life insurance.

T. W. G.

CLEVELAND'S SUICIDE COMMISSION.

Frederick C. Howe, in Collier's Weekly
for Dec. 2. The editor of Collier's says of
Mr. Howe, that he is a member of the com-
mittee of which he writes, and that he is
the author of several books on government,
and is a member of the Ohio State Senate.

Within a comparatively few months,
86 persons have committed suicide in
the city of Cleveland. This was during
the period of general prosperity. To fix
the cause, and, if possible, apply a cure,
is the work of the Suicide Commission
which Mayor Johnson has recently
created.

A surprisingly large number of con-
fessions of contemplated suicide have
already come to the committee. Those
thus far investigated have been found
to be genuine. The universal cause is
despondency, a conviction that life has
ceased to offer any adequate returns for
the struggle—a feeling that, whatever
the future may hold, the present is un-
endurable. A great majority of the
cases are traceable to industrial causes,
continued inability to secure work, a
consequent loss of self-respect, and a
feeling of social inferiority. The indus-
trial wreckage in our large cities is very
great even in periods of prosperity, and
inability to catch on, to find a job, to fit
into the competitive struggle, produces
a sense of weariness and despondency
that leads to suicide. While cities have
erected hospitals for the correction of
disease, no effort has been made to re-
lieve the industrial by-product that is
crushed to earth by competition.

A second cause of despondency is
drink, with which is allied domestic un-
happiness. But the drink evil is chiefly
industrial, so that the Commission's
conclusions, so far, point to the econom-
ic explanation as chiefly responsible.

As to the corrective, the Commission
has as yet reached no conclusions. If
the cause is correctly assigned, relief lies
in offering opportunity to work to self-
respecting persons temporarily in need.
Cleveland has adopted this policy in its
workhouse and infirmary. Instead of
housing its unfortunates in city prisons,
the city has purchased a 1,500-acre farm
and placed its dependent classes at work

in the country. The city has substituted
sunlight, fresh air, and contact with
Mother Earth as a surer means of re-
form to the vagabond and the industrial-
ly unfit than the prison cell of the old-
style infirmary. It is possible that a
similar programme will be suggested for
those who are temporarily unable to
catch on in the industrial struggle,
where failure leads to despondency, loss
of self-respect and ultimate self-destruc-
tion.

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.

From Mark Twain's "Editorial Wild
Oats."

Last evening about six o'clock as Mr.
William Schuyler, an old and respect-
able citizen of South Park, was leaving
his residence to go downtown as has
been his usual custom for many years,
with the exception only of a short in-
terval in the spring of 1850, during
which he was confined to his bed by in-
juries received in attempting to stop a
runaway horse by thoughtlessly placing
himself directly in its wake, and throw-
ing up his hands and shouting, which,
if he had done so even a single moment
sooner, must inevitably have fright-
ened the animal still more instead of
checking its speed, although disastrous
enough to himself as it was, and ren-
dered more melancholy and distressing
by reason of the presence of his wife's
mother, who was there and saw the sad
occurrence, notwithstanding it is at
least likely, though not necessarily so,
that she should be reconnoitering in an-
other direction when incidents occur not
vivacious and on the lookout, as a gen-
eral thing, but even the reverse, as her
own mother is said to have stated, who
is no more, but died in the full hope of a
glorious resurrection, upward of three
years ago, aged 86, being a Christian
woman and without guile, as it were,
or property, in consequence of the fire
of 1849, which destroyed every single
thing she had in this world. But such is
life. Let us all take warning by this
solemn occurrence and let us endeavor
so to conduct ourselves that when we
come to die we can do it. Let us place
our hands upon our heart, and say with
earnestness and sincerity that from this
day forth we will beware of the intoxi-
cating bowl.

THE INCENDIARY MR. BAER.

Mr. George F. Baer, president of
the Reading railroad, has put his foot
in it again. His latest utterance is
the following:

Cain was the first striker, and he killed
Abel because Abel was the more pros-
perous fellow.